GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:358
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2005
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether US has restored free access to goods from India, citing improved intellectual property rights;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the list of the duty free items or the value of the access that has been made available to Indian goods; and

(d) the extent to which this decision of US will be further improving the US-Indo trade?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. The United States through a Presidential Proclamation, on June 29, 2005 has restored duty free access to certain Indian products mostly in the agro-chemicals and pharmaceuticals sector under the US Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

(c) & (d): The restoration of GSP benefits have been made in tariff lines falling mainly under Chapters 28, 29, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38 of the Harmonized System Code. The existing trade in these items is estimated at more than US $ 370 million, which is expected to increase because of the duty-free access for the relevant products.